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Book Reviews.

A Guide to Biblical Study. By A. S. PEAKE, M.A., with an Introduction by A. M. Fairbairn, D.D. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1897. Pp. xix + 264. \$1.50.

This book is both interesting and disappointing. It undertakes to do what no book of its size could possibly do, but so far as its limitations of space permit it to go, the result is satisfactory. Perhaps its aim to be purely popular and not addressed to students may explain the author's ambitious effort to compress even the briefest outline of biblical introduction, exegesis, history, and theology into a single volume. The hints which it supplies will be found most helpful by all those readers who have not the time for more extensive research. It is a cause for satisfaction that a book of the kind can be placed in the hands of many who are asking for help on Bible study. The point of view is modern and scholarly. Without dogmatism, the author puts the reader into possession of the ripest thought of the time on the various phases of biblical literature. What may be regarded as the assured conclusions of criticism are presented in simple form, and the result should go far toward giving the lay reader a true conception of the real character of modern biblical study, and removing his fear of critical labors and their results. "The mistakes of critics," says Dr. Fairbairn in his introduction, "have been innumerable; but it is by the mistakes of the discoverer that the truth is ultimately served. There is no process that has so little that is reasonable and conclusive in it as the process that would discredit exploration by magnifying the discordances of the explorers. Were this method had recourse to in other things as it has been pursued by many of the more officious apologists for traditional beliefs, we should never have had satisfactory results in any single science, abstract or concrete, natural or historical, or in any single line of investigation, whether geographical or antiquarian." Such a book as this is needed by the Sunday-school teacher and all who deal with children. There is no field in which the modern view of things would so increase the effectiveness of work as here. The book gives admirable summaries of literature, which will be found of great service by all who have occasion to select books of

reference on the various portions of Scripture. Of particular interest are the sections on the theology of the Old and New Testaments. The teachings of prophets and apostles are outlined with discrimination. The section on the teachings of Jesus is the least satisfactory, only six pages being devoted to it, as contrasted with twenty-four to Paul. A chapter on language and biblical study is contributed by G. B. Gray, M.A.

HERBERT L. WILLETT.

Genesis Critically and Exegetically Expounded. By DR. AUGUST DILLMANN, late Professor of Theology in Berlin. Translated from the last German edition by W. B. Stevenson. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark; New York: Imported by Chas. Scribner's Sons. 2 vols. Pp. 426 and 516. \$6.

The numerous works published by this distinguished biblical scholar, most of which have appeared as parts of the *Kurzgefasste exegetische Handbuch zum Alten Testament*, have made his name familiar to every student of the Old Testament, and, as a result, the present translation of the sixth edition of his *Genesis* (1892) will be welcomed. Dillmann represents the type of criticism which uses all the fairly attested results of the process, but does not follow the extreme wing to positions which will certainly have to be abandoned as the work goes forward. Critics of every school, radical and conservative, have rendered and are rendering invaluable service to biblical study, but extreme positions on either side are dangerous, because they do not stand the bombardment of facts. Dillmann has, from the first, occupied a mediating ground, being in consequence approved by neither wing. But his position gives the student of the whole question a point of departure for further study. While *Genesis* is not the key to the hexateuchal problem, it falls to be considered from the same angle as the other books of the group, and has a special interest as embodying those early narratives to which so much thought is being given in these days, not alone from the theological side, and no longer from the scientific, but especially from the historical and literary. The light shed on the records of *Genesis* by Assyrian and Babylonian literature is growing constantly, and has lent a new interest to the theme. In the preface to the present work, which is not translated, the author speaks of this growing material and the discriminating use which has been made of it in these volumes.